

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 8, 2003 (BOS Mtg. 1/21/03)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Approval of Procurement Action

The attached resolution provides for the approval of County purchases by the Board of Supervisors in accordance with its policy for procurements of over \$30,000. The Board's approval is requested for procurement of the following:

Fire and Life Safety Equipment – The Department of Fire and Life Safety has four major pieces of apparatus that are between twenty and thirty years of age and two medic units that are between eight and ten years of age. These units are scheduled for replacement in current CIP during Fiscal Years 2004 - 2007. As you know, Fire and Life Safety and Vehicle Maintenance both take great pride in the condition of the fire and rescue apparatus they maintain. The quality of care is second to none, and every effort is made to make the existing fleet of equipment last as long as possible. However, these aging units have deteriorated quicker than anticipated and Vehicle Maintenance is experiencing difficulty in locating replacement parts and in some cases they are no longer available.

This has resulted in a significant amount of downtime. One pumper has been completely removed from service because replacement parts cannot be located or repairs are so expensive it is not cost effective to make the repairs on a vehicle of that age. This situation is making it difficult to provide minimum levels of the equipment needed to maintain an adequate level of fire and rescue response capability. In order to help fill the void left by the two that are out of service staff of the Fire and Life Safety Department have arranged for backup from surrounding localities.

Due to concerns over the ability to maintain the service level, the loss of two pumpers, and the difficulty of maintaining the other older units at an acceptable state of readiness, it is recommended that the Board approve the lease/purchase replacement of these aging units (2 pumpers, 1 pumper/quint and 1 tanker) and two ambulances included in the current CIP. Staff has made several inquiries and there are a number of regional bids currently active, which may be utilized to procure most of the necessary equipment. Purchasing this equipment now will allow the County to take advantage of volume buys and to avoid the price increases anticipated during the out years of the

CIP. Given these savings and current market conditions, this equipment can be lease purchased without increasing the overall CIP.

The CIP includes approximately \$2.2 million in Fiscal Years 2004 – 2007 for procurement of this equipment. If lease purchased over a five-year period, the annual debt service is estimated to be approximately \$435,000 totaling \$2.175 million over the five-year lease period. If the equipment is lease purchased as proposed, in accordance with state code it will be necessary to hold a public hearing before the Board approves the purchase. State code requires that there be a public hearing before the approved budget is amended by \$500,000 or one percent whichever is lesser. Given that the total expenditure would exceed \$500,000 a public hearing has been scheduled and advertised for the January 21, 2003 regular meeting. Purchase of the four fire and two medic units shall not exceed the \$1,945,000 to be appropriated for such purpose.

In addition, staff is in the process of updating the replacement plan for major pieces of equipment. The revised plan will provide for incremental procurement of the major pieces of fire and life safety equipment with a relatively even cash flow rather than one, which results in periodic “spikes” in the CIP. If the Board approves the recommendation to lease purchase the fire and life safety equipment included in the current CIP we will present the new replacement plan as a part of the CIP work sessions to be held in January and February.

This procurement has been conducted in accordance with State procurement laws and/or County procurement policy, and I recommend that it be approved through the adoption of proposed Resolution R03-6.

White/3737

Attachment:

? Proposed Resolution R03-6